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Group of countries in special situations: Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries

Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries: high-level meeting on the midterm comprehensive global review of the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010

Programme budget implications of draft resolution A/C.2/60/L.32/Rev.1

Statement submitted by the Secretary-General in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly

I. Requests contained in the draft resolution

1. Under the terms of operative paragraph 5 of draft resolution A/C.2/60/L.32/Rev.1, the General Assembly would convene a high-level meeting on the midterm comprehensive global review of the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010 in New York on 19 and 20 September 2006, to be chaired by the President of the General Assembly.

2. Under the terms of operative paragraph 6 of the draft resolution, the General Assembly would convene a three-day preparatory meeting of experts during the sixtieth session of the General Assembly, preferably on 4, 5 and 6 September 2006, for the midterm comprehensive global review, to propose, as appropriate, measures to advance the process of the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010.

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3. Under the terms of operative paragraph 12 of the draft resolution, the General Assembly would recognize the importance of the contribution of civil society actors in the preparatory process and, in this regard, would request the President of the General Assembly to organize, within existing resources, one-day informal interactive hearings in New York with representatives of non-governmental organizations, civil society organizations and the private sector, as an input to the midterm comprehensive global review.

4. Under the terms of operative paragraph 16 of the draft resolution, the General Assembly would request the Secretary-General to submit, in a timely manner, a comprehensive report for the midterm comprehensive global review.

5. Under the terms of operative paragraph 17 of the draft resolution, the General Assembly would reiterate the critical importance of the full and effective participation of the least developed countries in the midterm comprehensive review of the Programme of Action at the national, regional and global levels, and stress that adequate resources should be provided, and in this regard would request the Secretary-General to mobilize extrabudgetary resources to cover the cost of participation of two government representatives from each least developed country in the process of the high-level meeting on the midterm comprehensive global review.

6. Under the terms of operative paragraph 20 of the draft resolution, the General Assembly would request the Secretary-General to submit to it at its sixty-second session a report on the implementation of the resolution.

II. Relationship of the draft resolution to the biennial programme plan and priorities for the biennium 2006-2007 and to the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2006-2007

7. The activities to be carried out relate to programme 1, General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management, subprogramme 1, Least developed countries, of programme 8, Least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States, and subprogramme 4, Support services, of programme 24, Management and support services, of the biennial programme plan and priorities for the period 2006-2007. They fall under section 2, General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management; section 10, Least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States; and section 28D, Office of Central Support Services, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2006-2007.

8. Under section 10, Least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2006-2007, the outputs requested in operative paragraphs 16 and 20 of draft resolution A/C.2/60/L.32/Rev.1 would need to be added as follows:

Paragraph 10.17 (a) (i) b

Add

"Comprehensive report on the midterm comprehensive global review (1); Report on the implementation of the resolution on the Third United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries: high-level meeting on the midterm comprehensive global review of the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010 (1)".

III. Activities by which the proposals will be implemented

9. Pursuant to operative paragraph 5 of draft resolution A/C.2/60/L.32/Rev.1, the high-level meeting on the midterm comprehensive global review of the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010 would be held for two days, on 19 and 20 September 2006, with two meetings per day, one in the morning and one in the afternoon, and with interpretation services in all six languages. Documentation requirements for the high-level meeting are estimated at 77 pages of pre-session and 20 pages of post-session to be issued in all six languages. No in-session documentation is foreseen. Verbatim records would be provided in all six languages if the meetings were considered plenary meetings of the General Assembly.

10. Pursuant to operative paragraph 6 of the draft resolution, the preparatory meeting of experts would consist of two working groups for three working days, preferably on 4, 5 and 6 September 2006, with four meetings per day, two in the morning and two in the afternoon, all with interpretation services in six languages. Documentation requirements for the meeting of experts are estimated at 25 pages of pre-session and 20 pages of post-session to be issued in all six languages. No in-session documentation is foreseen.

11. Pursuant to operative paragraph 12 of the draft resolution, the informal interactive hearings would be held for one day, with two meetings, one in the morning and one in the afternoon, and with interpretation services in all six languages. Documentation requirements for the informal interactive hearings are estimated at 55 pages of pre-session and 2 pages of post-session to be issued in all six languages. No in-session documentation is foreseen.

12. It should be noted that the proposed dates of the high-level meeting, 19 and 20 September 2006, would overlap with the general debate of the General Assembly, which will start on 19 September 2006 (see A/INF/59/1) in accordance with Assembly resolution 57/301. Since the high-level meeting and the general debate of the General Assembly cannot be held at the same time, arrangements will have to be made to avoid such an overlap. Regarding the preferred dates of the preparatory meeting of experts (4-6 September 2006), in 2006, Labor Day falls on 4 September, which is a United Nations holiday; no meeting can be held on that day. Therefore, the three-day preparatory meeting of experts would have to be rescheduled. The exact dates for the informal interactive hearings will be determined in consultation between the substantive secretariat and the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management, subject to the availability of conference facilities and services.

IV. Additional requirements for the biennium 2006-2007

13. The implementation of the requests contained in operative paragraphs 5, 6 and 12 of the draft resolution would entail requirements as detailed in the table.

Additional regular budget requirements

(United States dollars)

	2006
(a) High-level meeting on the midterm comprehensive global review of the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010	
Section 2. General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management	
Meeting servicing, interpretation and documentation	373 100
Section 28D. Office of Central Support Services	
Support services	10 400
Subtotal (a)	**383 500**
(b) Preparatory meeting of experts	
Section 2. General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management	
Meeting servicing, interpretation and documentation	223 200
Section 28D. Office of Central Support Services	
Support services	31 200
Subtotal (b)	**254 400**
(c) Informal interactive hearings	
Section 2. General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management	
Meeting servicing, interpretation and documentation	169 400
Section 28D. Office of Central Support Services	
Support services	5 200
Subtotal (c)	**174 600**
Grand total	**812 500**

14. Should the General Assembly adopt draft resolution A/C.2/60/L.32/Rev.1, the high-level meeting on the midterm comprehensive global review of the implementation of the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2001-2010 and the preparatory meeting of experts would constitute an addition to the draft calendar of conferences and meetings of the United Nations for 2006 which has been submitted for approval by the General Assembly. However, should the high-level meeting be held as meetings of the General Assembly, no additional resources would be required, as conference services are provided for meetings of the General Assembly throughout the year. The informal interactive hearings would be held within existing resources already earmarked for meetings of

the General Assembly on the condition that they are not held when the General Assembly is meeting, and the 75 pages of documentation would be processed as documents of the General Assembly. The preparatory meeting of experts, however, would need additional conference-servicing and support services resources.

15. The reports requested under operative paragraphs 16 and 20 of draft resolution A/C.2/60/L.32/Rev.1 would represent additions to the outputs proposed in the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2006-2007 for section 10, Least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States. Given the priority nature of these reports, the Office of the High Representative for the Least Developed Countries, Landlocked Developing Countries and Small Island Developing States stands ready to prepare the reports and will endeavour to do so within existing resources.

16. The implementation of operative paragraph 17 of the draft resolution is being understood as requiring the Secretary-General to mobilize extrabudgetary resources and would not require the use of any regular budget funds. The attention of the Committee is drawn to the provision of section VI of General Assembly resolution 45/248 B of 21 December 1990, in which the Assembly reaffirmed that the Fifth Committee was the appropriate Main Committee of the Assembly entrusted with responsibilities for administrative and budgetary matters; and reaffirmed also the role of the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions.

V. Contingency fund

17. It will be recalled that under the procedures established by the General Assembly in its resolutions 41/213 of 19 December 1986 and 42/211 of 21 December 1987, a contingency fund is established for each biennium to accommodate additional expenditure derived from legislative mandates not provided for in the programme budget. Under this procedure, if additional expenditure were proposed that exceeded the resources available from the contingency fund, the activities concerned would be implemented only through the redeployment of resources from low-priority areas or modification of existing activities. Otherwise, such additional activities would have to be deferred to a later biennium.

VI. Conclusions

18. **Should draft resolution A/C.2/60/L.32/Rev.1 be adopted by the General Assembly, and should the high-level meeting and the informal interactive hearings be held as meetings of the General Assembly, additional resources in the total amount of $223,200 would be required under section 2, General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2006-2007, and additional resources in the total amount of $31,200 would be required under section 28D, Office of Central Support Services. No additional resources would be required under section 10, Least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States.**

19. **Should draft resolution A/C.2/60/L.32/Rev.1 be adopted by the General Assembly, and should the high-level meeting not be held as a meeting of the Assembly, additional resources in the total amount of $596,300 would be**

required under section 2, General Assembly and Economic and Social Council affairs and conference management, of the proposed programme budget for the biennium 2006-2007, and additional resources in the total amount of $41,600 would be required under section 28D, Office of Central Support Services. No additional resources would be required under section 10, Least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States.

20. **The additional resource requirements referred to in paragraphs 18 and 19 above would represent a charge against the contingency fund and, as such, would require appropriations for the biennium 2006-2007 to be approved by the General Assembly at its sixtieth session.**